

# NEWSLETTER

## for Blackwell First School- Blue Class



**Welcome back after the Easter holidays!** We hope you all enjoyed the break and are ready and raring to go for the summer term. Last term was very successful with the children continuing to work hard and enthusiastically. It was lovely to welcome you back into school to see for yourselves how hard they have been working through their Adventures Assembly and Art Exhibition. We are pleased to see the progress they are making not only with their academic skills but their social and independent skills too. Targets were sent home at the end of last term for the children to work on both in school and at home to help them make further progress. We are now in our final term, which is always a busy one. Transition work will be an important aspect and we will be working to support the children in their preparations for middle school. We look forward to lots of new learning and experiences too during this term... residential, an Industrial Revolution trip and Jubilee celebrations... to name just a few!

### TOPIC

'Go Global' is our new topic and the children will be learning about different places around the world and aspirational people from these places. The project the children will be working towards is special 'sponsored learning' to help raise money for The Red Cross to support their work with families from Ukraine. The children will soon bring home a sponsor form which will detail how their learning links with this important project. Being resilient when completing their learning challenges is a skill that will definitely be developed.



Geography, Science and R.E. are the main subjects taught during this topic. In Geography, children will firstly revisit previous learning about global features, then they will complete a more in-depth study of Geneva, the home of The Red Cross charity. They will use a variety of geographical sources and use new learning to compare and contrast Geneva with Birmingham.

In Science, children will learn about the impact of scientific inventions on helping to bring equality to parts of Africa (e.g. the wind up radio) and will then use this as a springboard to discover more about electrical conductors, insulators and circuits. Children will hypothesise, predict, carry out fair tests and make conclusions.

Learning in R.E. this term will explore Hindu beliefs in God and what it means to live as a Hindu in Britain today. Children will find out where in the world Hinduism began and will have opportunity to reflect upon their own beliefs and views.



PSHE, Music, Computing, French, P.E and Philosophy for Children are taught each week throughout the year. See our 'Curriculum' page on the school website for more information.

### YEAR 4 TIMES TABLE CHECK

In June, children in Year 4 will take part in a national statutory times table check. This is an on-screen assessment designed to check whether they can fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12, through a set of 25 questions with 6 seconds for each question (most questions will be the 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12x).

As we do for the Year 1 phonics screening check and Year 2 SATS, we treat these like fun quizzes and we will complete similar quizzes most days in school so that the children become familiar with the layout, timing and how to input their answers. Here is a good times table check practice site for the children to have a go on at home. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check>

If there is anything you wish to ask about, please come and speak to us at the end of the school day or send an email to [office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@blackwell.worcs.sch.uk). Many thanks.  
Miss Townsend and Miss Kuriger

### LITERACY

Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo is the text the children will be exploring in Literacy to develop their reading, speaking and writing skills. 'Set in the dangerous landscape of apartheid South Africa, this is the inspiring story of two brave children who will do anything to save their little sister.' On our introductory day, through 'dilemma-based learning', the children learned about aspects of the life of Beverley Naidoo, who lived under Apartheid, some of the challenges she faced and the significant role played by the inspirational leader Nelson Mandela.

Posing questions, summarising, inferring and identifying good word choices as they explore the story will help to develop their reading skills. Interviewing and analysing characters will support their letter and story writing skills alongside developing their sentence construction through the use of conjunctions, adverbs and correctly punctuated dialogue.

The tricky words for this half term are on the Blue Class homework sheet. It would be great if the children could practise these tricky words at home too in addition to any personal spelling lists you've received.

Take a look back at last half term...



taking part in several sporting events with other local first schools to support transition to middle school



bell boating along the canal

### NUMERACY

During Numeracy, the children will develop their understanding of decimal numbers involving tenths and hundredths. They will make them using a range of concrete apparatus to help develop a secure understanding of what decimal numbers are, compare and round them and solve problems. Investigating others fractions will follow this where they will count in different fractional steps, identify unit and non-unit fractions of shapes, objects and amounts i.e.  $\frac{5}{7}$  of 42, add and subtract fractions and recognise equivalences.

We will also be learning about position and direction and spend time describing positions using co-ordinates and movements between positions.

Mental maths will focus on the 9 and 12 times tables and corresponding division facts, doubling and halving multiples of 100 up to 5,000, deriving sums and differences of pairs of multiples of 10, 100 and 1,000, using efficient mental methods to add and subtract 2 2-digit numbers and using efficient mental methods to multiply and divide by 4, 8, 5, 50 and 25.

### YEAR 4 HOMEWORK

To further support transition to middle school, all Year 4 children are now expected to complete one piece of quality homework each week to be handed in each **Tuesday**. There are a variety of creative tasks to choose from on the new homework sheet to be completed individually or collaboratively.